

(25). POLYGONACEÆ.

Polygonum strigosum—(R. BR.).—Banks of streams near Mount William, rare.

lapathifolium—(LINNE).—Swampy flats near Mount William, rare.

hydropiper—(LINNE).—Same as last.

prostratum—(R. BR.).—Wet clayey banks of brackish creeks, rare.

Rumex Brownii—(CAMPDERA).—Swampy places, rare.

bidens—(R. BR.).—Same as above.

(26). CASUARINÆ.

Casuarina quadrivalvis—(LABILL).—Generally diffused.

distyla—(VENT.).—Heath-grounds, ascends the Grampians to 1,500 feet. Height, 3-5 feet.

NOTES ON A BOTANICAL TRIP TO BRIGHTON.

BY A MEMBER OF THE FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

Taking advantage of a holiday on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday, a sort of trial trip was made by a couple of members of the Field Naturalists' Club, and a youthful collector, to the heath country about Brighton. A somewhat unfavourable and uncertain looking morning caused rather a late start. On arriving at the scene of operations, we at once commenced to keep a sharp look out for Orchids and other minute plants. For the benefit of the younger and less experienced members of the Club, it may be mentioned that the requirements to make a good collector are, first, a knowledge of what he is going, or expects, to find, quick perception, and genuine enthusiasm; and without these qualities no one need expect to become a successful collector in any one branch of Natural History, no matter what branch he may choose. Taking our course towards Cheltenham, we came upon a fine patch (in flower) of *Caladenia fimbriata* and *Pterostylis aphylla*, the two species, it will be remembered, which were found, for the first time in Victoria, by a member of the Club, on the occasion of the Club's first excursion to Brighton. Proceeding on, a fine plant of the rare and curious fern *Schizæa bifida* was found by our juvenile companion. This species is now becoming very scarce, and, it is to be feared, will soon become extinct near Melbourne. As we neared Cheltenham, we met with a few plants of *Caladenia Menziesii*, an Orchid which in this district seems rather local; the plants were small ones, and were just above ground, and at some little distance from them another patch (not in flower) of the first-mentioned species. Scrubs were crossed, and the

pretty and ever-welcome *Epacris E. impressa* was noticed as just expanding its beautiful wax-like flowers. Many years ago, the pink and rose-colored varieties were common here, but now the finding of these is considered to be somewhat of a rarity—at least in this district. *Monotoca scoparia*, a plant belonging to the Epacridæ, was here in profusion, but one solitary specimen was all that was seen in flower, it being too early for the generality of Winter-flowering native shrubs. Another handsome plant, *Persoonia juniperina*, with its golden green foliage, attracted our attention, this plant, in common with many of the indigenous Proteaceæ, being rather difficult of removal, and thus seldom seen growing under cultivation. A mass of yellow flowers in the distance proved, as was anticipated, to be *Acacia suaveolens*, a most beautiful and, as its specific name implies, a sweet-scented species; and specimens of this were also taken for the Herbarium. A few plants of the charming little heath fern *Lindsaya linearis* were next met with, and the curious obcordate fleshy leaves of *Lyperanthus nigricans*, a most beautiful Orchid, were just showing above ground. As it was now noon, a halt was made for luncheon, and, being well provided for a "Brighton appetite," we sat down on the ground, and did justice to our frugal meal: while so engaged one of the party noticed a singular little plant (then no larger than the point of a pin), *Phylloglossum Drummondii*, belonging to the natural order Lycopodiaceæ, the morphology of which is now occupying the attention of scientific botanists in many parts of Europe and elsewhere. This was speedily dug up as a prize and consigned to the collecting bag. After a long and patient search were found a few fine plants of *Pterostylis vittata*, a beautiful and rare Orchid, discovered, as will be remembered, last year by one of our members, it being then new for Victoria; and specimens of this were collected, both for drying and for cultivation. A solitary plant of a rather common Orchid, *Acianthus exertus*, was here met with in flower, and, close to it, two specimens (also in flower) of *Eriochilus autumnalis*, a pretty little Orchid, rare here, but common in the Berwick and other districts, and well known as the real herald of the earlier flowering Orchids. Large patches of a very pretty though common species, *Pterostylis concinna*, were here growing in abundance, but, not being in flower, it was left for a future occasion. The pretty little native cranberry *Astroloma humifusa* was here in profusion, and the charming and singular Droseras, or Sun-dews, were just showing above ground. *Isopogon anemonifolius* was also common, and just coming into bloom. *Banksia integrifolia* was well in flower, and attracted quantities of Meliphagidæ, or Honey-eaters, who, with their long bills, seemed to be enjoying themselves amazingly, and apparently not heeding the attention of two sad-looking youths who, with a gun, were vainly trying at a distance of a few yards to shoot them. Consulting our watches we found that the day was fast drawing to a close; so we hastened to retrace our steps, and faced homewards. Directing our course towards the fossil beds we worked for some distance along the sea-shore, turning over a few stones occasionally, and finding many quaint-looking objects under them, which, from an ignorance of this particular branch of Zoology, were

unrecognized by us. Turning again inland, the pretty and favourite little daisy *Brachycome graminifolia* was seen peeping its modest little head from amongst the ti-tree scrub which lined the coast here. A find was here announced, viz., an Orchid just coming into flower, and since proved by Baron von Müller to be the rare *Pterostylis obtusa*, now found for the first time (and again by our young companion): this was dug up for cultivation. It may be mentioned that, according to the Baron, this species has been found before on one occasion in Victoria, viz., by Mr. C. Walter, on the Dandenong Ranges, some years ago. Not far from here a great rarity was found, viz., a solitary specimen of the narrow-leaved variety of *Acacia leprosa*, a plant almost exclusively confined to the mountain regions of the Colony; and how it came here was a puzzle to those present. Little or nothing was attempted in the Entomological line, and, with the exception of a few specimens of the large Dung Beetle! *Onthophagus Kershawi*, a Carenium, *C. loculusum*, a Carab., *Helluo carinatus*, and a small Curculio, nothing else was captured, the season not being sufficiently advanced for the generality of entomological specimens.

Before closing these few short notes, it may be remarked that it would be well if our young friends who propose making collections were to commence at once, as every year reduces the field for operations in this and the other districts around Melbourne.

This conclusion has been arrived at after nearly 25 years' collecting in many branches of Natural History around Melbourne; and where, formerly, all around was natural and beautiful, ominous signs of advancing settlement present themselves daily. Great notice-boards announcing sales of large areas, surveyors' pegs, landmarks, and snobbishly-worded notices regarding trespassers, all justify the conviction that the once famous Brighton heath-grounds will shortly become a thing of the past. The collector will therefore do well to keep what specimens he finds, and the writer of these notes can, with confidence, assert that collecting-grounds of equal value to those of the Brighton, Cheltenham, and Caulfield districts do not exist in the colony; and in a few years, as I have already said, these districts will be to the collector as a sealed book: the only remnant left will be for the collector of Marine objects, whose domain will possibly last in the future as in the past, viz., for all time.
